Message Text

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THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT TO SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BERN USUN NY DTG O R 151117Z MAY 5 FROM USMISSION GENEVA

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CONFIDENTIAL GENEVA 3545

EO 11652: GDS TAGS: SREF, VS, US

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATIC REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM

REF: A. STATE 104017 B. BERN 2005

1. DEPUTY UNHCR MACE, AWARE OF US INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REF. A, VISITED MISSION AND REQUESTED CLARIFICATION AS TO WHAT USG EXPECTED UNHCR TO DO. HE EXPLAINED THAT WHEN A VIETNAMESE DIPLOMAT TELLS UNHCR THAT HE WANTS TO RESETTLE IN US, HE IS REFERRED BACK TO US EMBASSY. MACE STATED THAT VARIOUS US EMBASSIES ARE REFERRING VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS TO UNHCR WITHOUT GIVING THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR US VISA AND SUGGESTED THAT POSSIBLY INSTRUCTIONS TO DIPLOMATIC POSTS MAY NOT BE CLEAR.

2. MACE THEN RAISED POINT THAT US AGREED TO PAROLE 150,000 VIETNAMESE INTO US AND THAT THOSE EVACUATED FROM VIETNAM INCLUDED, AS REPORTED IN WORLD PRESS, MANY HOUSEBOYS, CONFIDENTIAL

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BAR GIRLS AND SIMILAR TYPES WHO MAY WELL BE INCLUDED

AMONG THOSE PAROLLED. ON OTHER HAND, US APPEARS TO BE REJECTING DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMATS, SOME EVEN WITH US TIES (AS CASE DISCUSSED IN REF. B). MACE THEN SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD MAKE SOME SENSE IF SMALL PORTION OF PAROLE QUOTA COULD BE SET ASIDE FOR THOSE RELATIVELY FEW DIPLOMATS WHO WOULD LIKE TO RESETTLE IN US.

- 3. ON GENERAL SUBJECT OF RESETTLEMENT, MACE CAUTIONED AGAINST PERMITTEING THIRD COUNTRIES, E.G. AUSTRALIA, CANADA, TO SELECT THE "CREAM" OF THE REFUGEE POPULATION IN GUAM, LEAVING US AND UNHOR WITH ALL THE CASES MORE DIFFICULT TO PLACE. HE RECALLED SIMILAR EXPERIENCES ALONG THOSE LINES WITH UGANDAN ASIANS WHICH SHOULD SERVE AS A LESSON, AND SUGGESTED THAT US URGE GOVERNMENTS TO HELP ALSO RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN SINGAPORE, THAILAND, HONG KONG AND INDONESIA.
- 4. MACE THEN FURNISHED MISOFF COPY OF CABLE SENT TO ALL UNHCR REPS AND CORRESPONDENTS ON MAY 14. TEXT FOLLOWS.

QUOTE: FURTHER TO PARAGRAPH FOUR STATEMENT OF POLICY, FOLLOWING RECENT EVENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA SOME NATIONALS THESE COUNTRIES WHO ARE ABROAD, INCLUDING STAFF MEMBERS THEIR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, ARE APPROACHING UNHOR BRANCH OFFICES FOR ADVICE ON POLITICAL ASYLUM. RECOMMEND YOU ADVISE SUCH APPLICANTS ALONG FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

A. APPLICATIONS FOR ASYLUM OR REGULARISED STAY SHOULD BE MADE TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY BY THE APPLICANT. UNHCR SHOULD SUPPORT THE APPLICATION, WHERE APPROPRIATE.

B. IF APPLICANT WISHS RESETTLE TO A THIRD COUNTRY HE SHOULD APPLY TO AUTHORITIES THAT COUNTRY, USUALLY GHROUGH LOCAL EMBASSY. WHERE APPROPRIATE, UNHCR SHOULD ALSO SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION.

C. AT SAME TIME APPLICANT SHOULD ALSO INFORM HOST AUTHORITIES IN RESPECT B., INDICATING THAT, WHILE HIS STAY LOCALLY SHOULD BE REGULARIZED, IT MAY BE ONLY TEMPORARY. WHERE APPROPRIATE YOU SHOULD ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPORT.

REQUESTS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY, EDUCATIONAL OR ANY OTHER FORM OF ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE HANDLED ACCORDING USUAL CRITERIA AND INSTRUCTIONS. PLEASE REFER REQUESTS FOR RESETTLEMENT COSTS TO HEADQUARTERS.

THIS INSTRUCTION SENT TO ALL UNHCR REPRESENTATIVES AND CORRESPONDENTS.

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED ON DEVELOPMENTS YOUR

AREA. END QUOTE.	
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Message Attributes

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